

CURRENT EVENTS IN LONDON AND BERLIN BY SPECIAL CABLE

Mrs. A. M. Thackara Receives A MERRY CHRISTMAS IN ENGLAND
a Splendid Service of Silver

Americans and Germans in Berlin Pay Tribute to the Popular Wife of the Consul General—The Ambassador and Mrs. Gerard Preparing for Their House Warming.

(Special Dispatch.)
UPON her return from Paris this week Mrs. A. M. Thackara found a delightful surprise awaiting her in a magnificent gift of silver from her large circle of American and German friends in Berlin, and which had been sent to Mr. and Mrs. Thackara's house and placed round the dining table. The gift consists of a huge silver bowl, either for punch or flowers; four double candelabra fitted with rose pink silver shades, four large compote dishes, four smaller bouillon dishes and a shallow cut glass salad plate, silver rimmed. The punch bowl is inscribed, "To Eleanor Sherman Thackara, from Her Berlin Friends," and each of the smaller pieces bears her monogram. Accompanying the gift was a portfolio bound in red suede and richly tooled in gold, in which were written the names of the 111 donors. The inscription reads:

"To Mrs. Alexander M. Thackara, from her friends in Berlin, as a token of her untiring zeal in every good cause, her kindness to the stranger and her loyalty and friendship."

As originally arranged, this mark of appreciation was to have been formally presented to Mrs. Thackara at a farewell reception at the American Women's Club, but this had to be abandoned, owing to a death in the family.

Count and Countess Anton Sigray are expected at the Hotel Esplanade to pass the Christmas holidays with the American Ambassador and Mrs. Gerard, who will give a dinner for them next Tuesday.

Mrs. Marcus Daly, of New York, mother of Mrs. Gerard and Countess Sigray, also is expected in Berlin a little later to be present at the house warming of the new Embassy, which will not occur as contemplated on New Year's Day, owing to the amount of work involved in renovating and furnishing the Schwabach Palace, in the Wilhelmplatz.

As soon as Mr. and Mrs. Gerard have taken possession of their new home they will be plunged into a round of official duties which make it necessary for them to postpone the first big gathering of their American compatriots until Lincoln's Birthday. This change will furnish Mrs. Gerard an opportunity to do special honor to her favorite hero in American history.

Mr. William Spencer, Second Secretary of the American Embassy, returned from Paris before the expiration of his month's leave of absence to await instructions concerning his transfer to Caracas.

As no official confirmation of the change has been received in Berlin, it is probable that Mr. Spencer will remain at his present post until late in January and thus be one of the Ambassador's staff at the official court functions of the season. Mr. Spencer will be greatly missed both in German and American social circles, as he has taken an active part in the manifold life of the capital. He is president of the Harvard Club in Berlin, is one of the governing committee of the American Luncheon Club and has done much toward establishing American prestige in golf and tennis matches throughout Germany.

Mr. Spencer, who came to Berlin from St. Petersburg, has occupied his present post for three years and has made hosts of friends. His post will be filled by Mr. George T. Sumner, a graduate of West Point, who retired from the army and entered the diplomatic service. He

comes to Berlin from the Far East, where he was attached to the American Legation staff at Tokyo and Peking.

Mr. Allison V. Armour, entertained thirty gentlemen at dinner at the Royal Automobile Club. Among the guests were the Imperial Chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg; the American Ambassador, Sir Edward Goschen; Mr. Joseph Clark Grew and Major George T. Langhorne.

Following the rotating idea adopted by the American Luncheon Club, the last meeting of the organization for the present year was held on Wednesday at the Esplanade Hotel, with Mr. William Spencer, one of the governing committee, as chairman and toastmaster. Mr. Frederic William Wile read an address of welcome, written by Dr. Stanley Shaw, who was to have presided on the occasion, but who unexpectedly was called out of town. The American Ambassador, who never has absented himself from one of these meetings of the Luncheon Club, was present; also the Consul General, Mr. Thackara. Among the guests brought by members were Mr. Allison V. Armour, Professor Archibald Coolidge, Mr. Robert W. Cassatt, of Philadelphia; Mr. Wilhelm Funk, the American portrait painter; Mr. Karl Kitchen, of New York; Dr. Skaller, the Privy Counsellor; Herr Hecht, the German business world; Captain Henry C. Whitehead and Mr. E. C. Vreane.

Miss Halliday, an American painter living in Berlin, gave her friends the opportunity this week of viewing some of her recent work. In pursuance of her recently marked preference for the color scale, her canvases were arranged in harmonious groups, the walls of a smaller studio being hung with pictures displaying some note of blue, white and yellow tones predominated in a larger room. A glimpse at the Teigrarten in autumnal coloring, upon which was projected a characteristic figure of an old brushwoman, was one of the most interesting canvases.

The figure and sketch of "The Contescent," a picture which was given a place in the last Paris Salon, were also in the collection, and all round the interior was full of intimate charm. Miss Halliday is doing a great deal for the cause of art in her native town of Cairo, Ill., and in addition to the fountain and sun dial which she has erected she sends each year some work of plastic art to be placed in the public park of that city. She is leaving for America in January.

One of the chief topics of drawing room gossip is the transfer of the German Crown Prince from the Officers' Corps to the Death's Head Hussars at Danzig to the General Staff Offices at Berlin. With the Crown Prince and Crown Princess again in residence in the Berlin palace, the younger set of court society may expect a resumption of the round of gaieties of which the royal couple ever are the soul and center. Both are passionately fond of dancing, and invitations to the exclusive dances given at the palace are keenly coveted.

It is understood that the Crown Princess was one of the first to succumb to the tango fever, but, of course, the royal edict put a quetus upon her inclinations in this direction. If all reports are true, however, she will not be here much during the season, as she is said to be in delicate health, and therefore a sojourn at some length in Egypt is talked of.



LADY RANDOLPH CHURCHILL AT THE PICTURE BALL

Lady Randolph Churchill, who, since the dissolution of her marriage with Mr. Cornwallis West, has reverted to her former and more famous name, took a prominent part in the picture ball at the Albert Hall. Looking, it is correct to say, younger than ever, she appeared as the Empress Theodora of Byzantium, wife of the Emperor Justinian, who flourished about the year 527 A.D.

The Prince of Wales Has Been Seen Much in the West End, Buying His Presents, but Some Alarm Is Caused by His Appearance, the Indications Being That He Is Not Any Too Robust.

(Special Dispatch.)
London, December 27.

THE last week has been given up chiefly to shopping, and social functions have been very few, as always is the case during Christmas week.

London is very full and there are few shooting parties in the country, the only notable exception being a small party given by Lord Burnham at Hall Barn for the King.

The general prosperity of the country is mirrored in the expensive nature of this year's Christmas gifts. Many young men, happily endowed with wealthy relatives, found small automobiles humming under their front doors on Christmas morning. One firm alone having orders to deliver fifteen light automobiles on Christmas day, the majority for young university men. The gifts representing a value of \$17,500. Another firm delivered six light cars. In some cases automobiles priced from \$3,750 to \$5,500 were given as Christmas presents.

Appropos of the shopping expeditions by the royal family, the Prince of Wales and Princess Mary went one day shopping quite unmolested in Bond Street. They were obviously enjoying the excursion, being free from restraint, judging by the laughter of the brother and sister. Strange to say, few recognized them, much to the delight of the Prince and Princess, all being so busily engrossed with their own affairs, but whenever he was saluted the Prince readily acknowledged the compliment.

It was noticed, however, that the Prince, though merry enough, looked rather pale and worn. His eyes were dull and heavy and he had lost much of that springy, boyish walk usually characterizing him. Indeed, he looked quite ill. Probably the rest of the Christmas holidays will do him good, but it is very well known that the Prince is none too robust, and there is more than a suspicion that he has been rather overdoing it lately, what with his studies and frequent dashes to town on social pleasure bent. But the Queen will look after him—none knows how better than Queen Mary.

Among the social events of the week the most important was the "Christmas in Fairyland" bazaar organized by Princess Alexandra of Teck for the purpose of augmenting her scholarship fund at the Imperial Service College at Windsor on behalf of the sons of army and navy officers who through death or stress of circumstances have been unable to provide sufficient means suitably to educate them for the service of the empire.

It was opened by Queen Amelia, who wore a dress of black chamoisee, the bodice having a vest of ivory white enamel bordered net and lace. Round the neck collar were two rows of large and beautiful pearls. She also wore a small black velvet hat with ivory white ostrich feather on one side and a white stole of magnificent Russian sable. A Christmaslike bouquet of white lilies and pansies and a wreath of white and pink roses tied with scarlet

ribbons made an attractive contrast to her dress. Princess Alexandra of Teck, who received, presided over the Snow Queen tree and wore a long coat of tailless ermine, bordered at the hem and down the front with skunk, and a brown velvet hat finished with sienna colored ostrich plumes.

Princess Louise of Battenberg, in charge of the Ali Baba tree, wore a coat and skirt of duvign of sombre shade almost black, known as robe de negro, and a hat of velvet of the same shade.

All the stalls were named after fairy tales. The Santa Claus stall was presided over by Lady Barrington, the "Peter Pan" by Lady Northbrook and Lady St. Cyres, the "Aladdin" by Lady Edward Churchill and Mrs. McCormack Goodhart, "Jack the Giant Killer" by Mrs. David Beatty and Mrs. Althorpe, "Hänsel and Gretel" by Lady Abinger, "Alice in Wonderland" by Mrs. De Rothschild, "Cinderella" by Lady Arthur Hill and Mrs. John Ward, the latter wearing a dull black chamoisee tunic and skirt, the collar of which was of white satin edged with dark brown fur. There was a collar and chemise of ivory white net and over it one string of beautiful pearls.

An Algerian capote of black glacé silk was bound round her hair and arranged in a big bow at the back. It looked like a picture of a Welsh dress with a high hat and lace cap.

There also were interesting audiences at the Gaiety Theatre on Tuesday afternoon and evening to witness a repetition of the pictures seen in the Picture Ball at the Albert Hall two weeks before. Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria attended in the afternoon.

The Duchess of Marlborough came to town for the purpose, as she was anxious about the success of the fund in which she is so interested.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught occupied a box in the evening, but a lamentable story has to be told as a sequel to the great picture ball on December 27. As an outlet a letter circulated by the honorary secretary, Lady Muriel Paet, needs no ornamentation.

"A number of opera glasses," she writes, "were provided for the convenience of the guests and thirty of these were not returned. The loss falls upon the funds of the charity for which the ball was given."

The ball was a great affair of wealth and aristocracy and many historic costumes were represented and many noble families were there. There was a tremendous blaze of jewels. Tickets were \$6 and, save for the attendance of the flunkies, none who could not afford to pay \$1 for the privilege was admitted, and thirty opera glasses provided for the guests were stolen.

Dom Manuel's arrival at Twickenham with his bride was something of a surprise. Up to the last moment nearly everybody was sceptical at the news that they were on their way, as they had disappeared so often.

Some who were present say the presentation address by the municipal "bigwig" was not nearly such an impressive and enthusiastic affair as several accounts would lead one to suppose. In fact, according to some, it was rather the other way.

Now the question of the bride's title is being discussed officially. It is quite incorrect to describe her as Queen Augusta, as some time ago King George made it known that as far as the British court is concerned she is always to be referred to as Donna Augusta de Braganza, and in the event of her periodical appearance at court this is the manner in which she will be described upon her invitation. Dom Manuel is extremely eager that she be recognized as a queen in this country, but for many obvious reasons this is out of the question, and Dom Manuel is rather inclined to take umbrage at the refusal.

TINT HAIR
TO MATCH DRESS

(Special Dispatch.)
London, December 27.

QUITE a new note was struck by Madame Lucie—and she is nothing if not original—at one of her periodical "at homes" in Hanover Square, which was attended, as usual, by about a hundred women holding high places in society.

This was the tinting of the hair to match some of the evening dresses—red, purple and even green effects being given to the coiffure, of course by the wearing of wigs over the closely swathed natural hair. Bizarre though the idea may sound, in reality it was most successful. In the case of some black and white tango dresses snow white hair was worn, with black tulle hats.

Among the most effective of the evening dresses was one in ivory satin with a skirt divided at the hem to show a pale blue lining, a girle of pale blue sapphires and diamonds and a broad band of skunk across the front. With this dress a tiara was chosen to match the girle.

The dancing of the tango was one of the chief excitements of the afternoon, although the actual dance itself was one of the gentlest and most gracefully subdued description. The lady dancer wore a wonderful dress of pale green chamoisee trimmed with narrow bands of ermine and worn with a housemade tulle of silk, and a quaint little long sleeved coat of black and white striped velvet stopping short just above the waist. Her green shoes were made conspicuous by their black and white striped heels.

Other very pretty evening dresses were arranged in pink and silver gauze, in mauve flowered tulle, and again in bronze tulle, gorgeously embroidered with gold. Long flowing shoulder scarves in nylon, draped from the centre of the back and caught up lightly in either hand, added greatly to the grace and charm of many of the evening dresses, while there was an extraordinary fascination, too, about the wonderful shimmering fabrics, the delicate contrasts of color and the clever introduction of dark fur on the gleaming satins and in the midst of the pearl and silver embroideries.

Germany's Rulers Suffer
Under High Cost of Living

Even the Kaiser Feels the Strain on His Pursestrings and It Is Reported He Will Replenish His Coffers by the Sale of Some of His German Castles.

(Special Dispatch.)
Berlin, December 27.

THE continual increase of the cost of living does not only trouble the German working people; it is causing no little uneasiness among the German rulers. For the last three years most of these princes have been asking for "an increase of pay," the Kaiser himself being the first to lodge his complaint with his people, and the few who have not hitherto dared, or thought it advisable, to ask for a higher civil list are now busy preparing public opinion in their realm for the unpleasant and unavoidable necessity of giving more money for the keeping up of the chief of the State.

Still more significant, the two or three German federal princes who have so far had no civil list at all think very seriously of having one established, as their income, which is either derived from their own (or their wives') fortune or from the sale of titles, dignities, and decorations, cannot suffice much longer to "keep them going." One can therefore safely assert that all the German princes are hard up. If the clause of last year's Army bill, forcing them all to pay their share of the war tax, had been passed they would have been nearly ruined. Only exemption from taxation keeps them out of trouble.

This matter is regarded as serious, as one can see no satisfactory outcome. On one side, the princes state that everything now costs so much that the expense of court life has grown sixty per cent in the last twenty-five years. On the other side, the liberals, and more especially the socialists, sternly oppose any increase of civil lists, on the ground that the German taxpayers have to pay every year \$125,000,000 for armaments and the like.

It will be the difficult task of Ministers to solve the problem of putting more money at the disposal of kings and princes without applying to the taxpayer's pocket. The squaring of the circle compared to this problem is childish.

The German States have always been very generous with their sovereigns, as every one here understands that royalty and the exercise of royal power, especially in a militarist country, cannot be maintained without splendour and pomp. The Kaiser, for instance, receives \$1,000,000 a year as King of Prussia and \$200,000 more as German Emperor, but this amount cannot and does not suffice to keep the court as well as himself and his family. Even the traditional "crown property" is insufficient, for the Kaiser insists on having a brilliant, and corresponding expensive court. He managed three years ago to induce the Reichstag to grant him an increase of "salary," but not without pains and fuss, and even the supporters of the increase hinted to His Majesty that no further increase could in any circumstances be granted as long as he reigned.

Still, we hear now that the Kaiser intends making a little money by selling some of his sixty German castles. This is not astonishing—first, because he owns castles and shooting boxes which he never manages to visit; second, because it is quite comprehensible that this year has been a heavy burden on the imperial privy purse. It is of course impossible to estimate even approximately what the Kaiser spends, generally speaking, and what additional expense was enforced upon him by the marriage of his daughter, Princess Victoria Louise, in May, and by the celebrations of the silver jubilee of his accession, in June last.

A court official told me that the expense had been borne by the Kaiser alone, without assistance from the State. If one takes into account the magnificent receptions given to King George, Queen Mary and Tsar Nicholas, as well as the uncountable princely visits to Berlin on both these momentous occasions, and their suites (for the Kaiser insisted on paying all the hotel bills of these ladies and gentlemen); if one takes into account the dinners, luncheons, excursions, receptions, the additional motor cars and carriages which were bought, and finally the beautiful and costly wedding presents the Kaiser and Kaiserin gave to their daughter, one can easily reach the conclusion that the marriage and jubilee fees must have cost the Emperor something like \$200,000.

As long as the civil list cannot pay this amount means must be sought and found to pay it from another source. If the Kaiser's intention to sell some of his castles is carried out it will be the best—and the most melancholy—proof that life is becoming more expensive alike for those who labor in workshops and those who sit on thrones.

The new King of Bavaria, Ludwig III., was quick to seize the opportunity of increasing his civil list, and asked for an increase of \$50,000 in the midst of the accession celebrations. The increase was granted, but, curiously enough, the grant of that increase has dangerously spoiled the prospects of other kings and reigning grand dukes who might be tempted to ask for "raises," too, for the Diet debate on the civil list revealed some strange facts about the manner in which the Bavarian grant is spent.

It showed, for instance, that \$20,000 was squandered every year for the bringing up of 300 "royal pages" in the palaces, the civil list paying that amount, although the future pages all belong to the wealthiest families in Bavaria and could afford to pay their own expenses. It was also said that the King's private pharmacy costs the civil list about \$2,000 every year, which caused a socialist member of the Diet to remark, "I can furnish the royal family with medicine (he said 'cascar oil') at better rates."

Finally, the civil list feeds any amount of titled partridges and readily pays vast sums for the enjoyment (shooting parties, travelling, &c.) of the members, innumerable as they appear to be, of the royal household. And all that from a civil list of \$220,000! One cannot help being surprised, not at the magnitude of the civil list, but rather at its smallness, comparing it with its tremendous and wholly unjustified liabilities.

The King of Württemberg also asked, and was granted, an increase of civil list last year, but the fourth and last of German Kings, the King of Saxony, who has announced his intention of asking for an increase, too, is likely to meet with a rebuff at the hands of the Diet. First, socialists are very strong in Saxony, and any increase of royal expenditure is, by principle, banned by the extremists of the left; second, even court people in Saxony state money as long as he does not remarry, as the court functions in Dresden have been reduced to the indispensable because of the absence of a Queen; finally, the King is known to be one of the richest men, and especially one of the greatest land owners, within the German Empire. An increase of civil list would seem an affront to the Saxon people; and the King of Saxony, who knows that by this time, is sadly reflecting upon the advantage of observing the proverb, "First come, first served."

Trying to Grow
British Tobacco
Experiments Being Made in Its Cultivation in England Are to Last Five Years.

(Special Dispatch.)
London, December 27.

"TOBACCO," wrote the Irish rhymester, "is an Indian weed," but however that may have been it is now being acclimatized in the British Isles. Already it is grown in Ireland and many experiments are being made in its cultivation in England.

The patch nearest London is the eight acres grown by Mr. Trevor Williams at Hyfield—about 1,200 pounds an acre; but the largest crop in the kingdom is grown at Fleet, Hampshire, by Mr. Brandon, chairman of the New Tobacco Growers' Society. At Methwold, in Norfolk, Major Whitmore has a tobacco farm of six acres, growing cigarettes tobacco—yellow Gornico and a little Latakia.

The experiment being made by the Tobacco Growers' Society and the Development Commission is to last for five years. By the end of that time it is expected that the question whether tobacco can be grown in profit on a very large scale in Britain will be decided.

In the new Nineteenth Century Mr. J. W. Robertson-Smith, in an article on "English and Welsh Tobacco," alludes to the fact that in 1810 an import duty of \$5,000,000 was levied on tobacco. He declares, for he declares, that it is not the question of English tobacco, but of the tobacco of the commerce is nearly always a blend. The Irish cigarettes now on the market are a blend of Irish and foreign tobacco. The problem is the problem of growing to a profit.

HOPE FOR AMERICAN TOBACCO.
What are declared to be automatic machines on the part of the Imperial Tobacco Company's property, which control eighty per cent of the business in this country, have fostered a discontent in the trade which makes conditions favorable for an American invasion, according to a statement made to the writer by Mr. Henry Jerrold Nathan, a cigar and cigarette importer.

Mr. Nathan thinks that if Mr. John Surbrigg, who is here in London considering the entrance of the Tobacco Products Corporation of America into the English field, were to lay before the independent manufacturers a satisfactory plan of campaign, the absorption of the majority of them would be an easy task. It would also be advantageous to the latter, many of whom are doing little more than paying the Imperial Tobacco Company's property, only a small sum, and some not even that. The only danger Mr. Nathan sees in such a scheme is that ultimately the two big companies, American and English, might amalgamate or enter into a working agreement, in which case the Imperial Tobacco Company should intervene to prevent this.

"The trader will welcome an opposition by a powerful combination," said Mr. Nathan, "but he is dissatisfied at the miserable return which he obtains from the sale of the Imperial goods."

Wholesalers and retailers obtain an average of 24 per cent gross profit on the Imperial Tobacco Company's proprietary goods. This includes a bonus of 14 per cent, which they are liable to lose if they offend the company. If for some alleged offence they are blacklisted their names are circulated around the trade with a threat that anybody supplying the offending trader is liable to have his supplies stopped. Thus he is boycotted, and unless he can succeed in secretly obtaining his supplies he must fall to the ground.

METHODS OF THE TRUST.
A trader will also have his bonus stopped if he gives preference in his windows to an independent manufacturer's goods, and as the Imperial holds nine months' bonus in hand the loss to the trader of one-third of his profit is a fact which at times has a serious effect upon him financially. The Imperial Tobacco Company has inspectors whose sole duty is to see that the windows and the trader is punished on the export side. A statement of one of these inspectors, as the Imperial forms its own bench of judges, before whom the trader is denied the privilege of appearing to refute any statement that may be made by these overzealous officials.

When Mr. Duke came over from America to capture the English tobacco trade, in 1902, his first move was to purchase the American tobacco business, and through his American methods the Oden brands rapidly took the market. This brought about the amalgamation of the Oden company and the Imperial, and Mr. Duke left England with one and a half millions as his share of the profit. The Imperial Tobacco Company then popularized the Oden brands to exist only on a minor scale, thus proving that it is no hard task to familiarize the English smoking public with new brands.

Care of War Ships Means
Efficiency, Declares Naval Expert

(Special Dispatch.)
London, December 27.

THE truth of the statement that war ships, even with trained crews on board, are of little use without yards and docks to keep them in fighting trim is illustrated by the contract which has been signed this week between the Ottoman government and the firms of Armstrong and Vickers. This contract provides for the complete reorganization of the Turkish armament and dockyards. Another step is thus taken towards the revival of the naval power of the Ottoman Empire.

The need for a thorough reorganization of Turkey's naval establishment has long been apparent. Nowhere has the decline of her naval strength been more obvious than in the state of the dockyard at the Golden Horn. The circumstance that no battle ship has been built there since 1885 may be accounted for partly by the great advance in ship design and equipment, but it is not the failure to build vessels as much as the inability to keep them in good repair that has retarded the power and efficiency of the Ottoman fleet.

The modern war ship, unlike her predecessor of the sailing days, is a complicated box of machinery, and as such it is essential for her to receive periodic attention in dock at the hands of trained men with scientific and technical knowledge. Especially is this the case with those vessels which have not a great number of specialist officers, and in which the proportion of land service seamen is not large.

If the British and American navies, with their highly trained voluntary personnel, and it necessary to devote so much attention and expense to dockyards for the maintenance of their fleets it seems manifest that Turkey, with much smaller navies, maintained solely by conscription, must find it even more essential to do likewise.

Taking to heart the lessons of her two recent wars, Turkey has decided that any new vessels she is now building shall be provided with proper docks and machinery for their refitting.

haul her yards in the Baltic and Black Sea, and, second, to provide a new factory for the supply of ordnance. The terms of the concession just granted by the Russian government to Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., show that an Anglo-Russian company, with a capital of \$1,500,000 (\$7,500,000), will rebuild dockyards at Tarsis, on the Volga, to supplement the existing output of guns and projectiles. Here the most up to date plant will be available for the repair and refitting, as well as the manufacture of naval guns.

The action of Spain furnishes another instance of the importance of efficient dockyards to support a fleet. At Ferrol and Cartagena the yards are being modernized by a syndicate under the direction of the firms of Armstrong, Vickers and John Brown, who have sublet the contract for a large graving dock to Sir John Jackson, Ltd. If this had not been done there would be nothing to prevent the new Spanish war ships deteriorating, as those of Turkey and some of the South American republics have done.

Of the latter, the First Lord said in his letter to Mr. Borden, the Canadian Premier, on January 23 last: "It must further be borne in mind that the rapidly with which modern ships deteriorate, unless maintained in the highest state of efficiency by unremitting care and attention, is very marked. The recent experience of certain South American States in regard to vessels of the highest quality has been most painful, and has led to deplorable waste of money, most of which would have been saved had the ships been taken to supply, at the time they were commissioned, adequate refitting establishments and staffs of skilled and experienced personnel, both afloat and ashore."

No doubt the mistakes of their neighbors will not be lost on the Argentine naval authorities, for whom two dreadnoughts and some small craft are now completing in the United States. There seems to be a great light open here for the American firms concerned in the promotion of these vessels to become specialists in dockyard management as well as in shipbuilding.

If these firms were able to do for the South American dockyards what the British firms are doing for those of Europe, in Britain and America, would have better opportunities of proving their capabilities and giving an adequate return for the money invested in them.